IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS MARSHALL DIVISION

UNILOC 2017 LLC,		§	
	Plaintiff	§ §	Civil Action Nos. 2:18-cv-491, -492, -493, -496, -497, -499, -501, -503, -504
v.		§ §	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
GOOGLE LLC,	Defendant.	8 8 8 8	FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER
		§	

DEFENDANT GOOGLE LLC'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY RESPONSES REGARDING LICENSING

Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 2 of 13 PageID #: 7614 FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

Defendant Google LLC ("Google") moves to compel Plaintiff Uniloc 2017 LLC ("Uniloc") to produce documents and respond to Google's interrogatory regarding Uniloc's licensing efforts and prior settlement agreements.

Seeking to avoid Court intervention, Google has repeatedly explained to Uniloc why Uniloc's responses to this interrogatory are deficient. Google has likewise detailed why Uniloc's document production of licenses and settlement agreements is inadequate, falling short of Uniloc's production obligations. In fact, Uniloc has produced . Based on Uniloc's past litigation history, this cannot be the extent of Uniloc's agreements relating to the asserted patents in the above-captioned cases. For example, Uniloc previously asserted U.S. Patent No. 6,836,654 (asserted here in the 493 case), against Huawei in Uniloc 2017, LLC et al. v. Huawei Technologies, Co., Ltd. et al., No. 2:18-cv-00509 (E.D. Tex.). That case was dismissed with prejudice based on parties' stipulated "agree[ment] to settle the . . . matter, and [the parties] therefore stipulate, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(a)(1)(A)(ii) to dismiss with prejudice all claims and counterclaims between the parties." Despite Google's numerous requests that Uniloc produce the resulting license and/or settlement agreement from at least that litigation, Uniloc categorically refuses to respond to Google's request, let alone produce the relevant documents. Similarly, although Uniloc supplemented its interrogatory response, the "supplemental" response remains deficient and suffers from the same defects as the original response.

The requested information is highly relevant and is necessary for Google to meaningfully prepare for upcoming depositions, expert discovery, and trial. As the Federal Circuit instructs, "[1]icense agreements can be pertinent to the calculation of a reasonable royalty. . . . Our cases appropriately recognize that settlement agreements can be pertinent to the issue of reasonable royalties." *In re MSTG, Inc.*, 675 F.3d 1337, 1339, 1348 (Fed. Cir. 2012). For the reasons set forth

Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 3 of 13 PageID #: 7615 FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

below, Google respectfully requests that the Court compel Uniloc to provide full and complete responses to Google's interrogatory concerning Uniloc's licensing efforts and prior settlement agreements, and produce related documents.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

In July 2019, Google served its first set of interrogatories on Uniloc in all the above captioned cases. In July 2019, Google also sent Uniloc a letter identifying specific categories of documents that Uniloc was required to produce pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26, the Local Rules of the Eastern District of Texas, including Local Rule CV-26(d), and the terms of the Discovery Order and E-Discovery Order agreed to by the Parties. After obtaining an extension, in September 2019 Uniloc served its interrogatory responses and responded to Google's letter regarding document categories for production.

In November 2019, Google wrote to Uniloc and explained why Uniloc's interrogatory responses and document productions were deficient in all the above captioned cases. The parties met and conferred multiple times in December 2019 and January 2020, regarding Uniloc's interrogatory responses, and Uniloc agreed to substantively supplement its responses. Uniloc served supplemental interrogatory responses in January and February, 2020. Uniloc's supplemental responses failed to address the specific deficiencies previously raised by Google and instead maintained Uniloc's original objections,

Nonetheless, Google once again identified the ongoing deficiencies in Uniloc's supplemental response in additional correspondence in February 2020. Most recently, Google wrote to Uniloc on February 18 and explained why Uniloc's production of relevant licenses and settlement documents was deficient. Despite Google's repeated efforts to meet and confer, Uniloc neither substantively responded to Google's disputes nor made itself available for the conference. The parties have reached an impasse.

III. LEGAL STANDARD

The rules of discovery are "accorded a broad and liberal treatment to effect their purpose of adequately informing the litigants in civil trials." *Herbert v. Lando*, 441 U.S. 153, 177 (1979). "Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claim or defense and proportional to the needs of the case" Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1). "Information within this scope of discovery need not be admissible in evidence to be discoverable." *Id.* "Once the moving party establishes that the materials requested are within the scope of permissible discovery, the burden shifts to the party resisting discovery to show why the discovery is irrelevant, overly broad, or unduly burdensome or oppressive, and thus should not be permitted." *SSL Servs., LLC v. Citrix Sys., Inc.*, No. 2:08-cv-158-TJW, 2010 WL 547478, at *2 (E.D. Tex. Feb. 10, 2010). An interrogatory must "be answered separately and fully," Fed. R. Civ. P. 33(b)(3), and must provide "all relevant, discoverable information." *Stambler v. Amazon.com, Inc.*, No. 2:09-CV-310 (DF), 2011 WL 10538668, at *3–4 (E.D. Tex. May 23, 2011). A party cannot "decid[e] which interrogatories (or subparts) to answer and which to ignore." *Id.* at *4.

IV. ARGUMENT

Google's interrogatory seeks fundamental discovery concerning any potential damages in this case, such as Uniloc's licensing efforts:

Identify each offer made by Plaintiffs, their Predecessors-in-Interest, or any other Person to any Third Party Regarding the licensing or sale of the Asserted Patent or any Related Patent, whether individually or in combination with any other patents.¹

Uniloc's January 24 supplemental response stated:

¹ Interrogatory No. 4 in the -491 case; Google propound substantially similarly worded Interrogatories in all above captioned cases. *See* Jones Decl. ¶ 2.

Google has also identified many categories of documents related to licensing, including:

- "All licenses or other agreements [Uniloc] has entered into . . . that relate to rights to the [asserted] Patent,"
- "All Documents Regarding any license . . . [to] the [asserted] Patent,"
- "All Documents Regarding any comparable licenses that would assist in determining a reasonable royalty applicable to the [asserted] Patent," and
- "All Documents Regarding Plaintiffs' licensing policies."³

Despite Uniloc having entered dozens of settlements in patent cases in this District alone, its production of licenses, settlement agreements, and related documents,

do not constitute even a fraction of the documents that may be responsive to Google's outstanding discovery requests when viewed in the context of Uniloc's prior litigation and settlement history. Uniloc routinely enters settlement-related licenses, under which accused infringers pay a lump sum and receive a license to Uniloc's entire portfolio (including any later-acquired patents). For example,

. And Uniloc has not denied that additional licenses exist that it has not produced.

See Jones Decl. ¶5.

³ Google's July 23, 2019 letter regarding Uniloc's disclosure obligations in the -491 case; Google propound substantially similarly worded categories of documents in all above captioned cases.

⁴ In addition to

Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 6 of 13 PageID #: 7618 FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

, yet Uniloc refuses to provide any license or agreement despite
Google's frequent requests. Google suspects,

There is no dispute that such documents are relevant and should be produced. Indeed, both this Court and the "Federal Circuit has repeatedly recognized the relevance of settlement agreements to the issue of reasonable royalties." *PerdiemCo, LLC v. Industrack LLC*, Nos. 2:15-cv-727-JRG-RSP, *et al.*, 2016 WL 6611488, at *4 (E.D. Tex. Nov. 9, 2016) (Payne, M.J.); *see also Allegran, Inc. v. Teva Pharm. USA, Inc.*, No. 2:15-cv-1455-WCB, 2017 WL 132265, at *1 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 12, 2017) ("Courts have frequently ordered the production of such agreements") (collecting cases).

Such licenses and settlement agreements are particularly relevant because Uniloc does not practice the asserted patents—it merely licenses them. In such circumstances, this Court makes clear that licensing and settlement documents must be produced because "Plaintiff's business is to litigate and license," not to "openly compete with Defendants in the marketplace." *Charles E. Hill & Assocs., Inc. v. ABT Elecs., Inc.*, 854 F. Supp. 2d 427, 430 (E.D. Tex. 2012) (Gilstrap, J.). Google therefore requests that the Court compel Uniloc to produce all documents responsive to the categories identified above and supplement its response to Google's interrogatory concerning Uniloc's licensing efforts and prior settlement agreements. *See, e.g., Sol IP, LLC v. AT&T Mobility LLC*, Nos. 2:18-cv-00526-RWS-RSP, *et al.*, 2020 WL 60140, at *3 (E.D. Tex. Jan. 6, 2020) (ordering patentee to respond to interrogatory requiring that it "identify and describe in detail all Agreements or offers to make an Agreement between [patentee] and/or any third party regarding any Patent-in-Suit, and for each Agreement or offer to make an Agreement, identify all related

Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 7 of 13 PageID #: 7619

FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

facts and circumstances, including but not limited to: dates on which negotiations began and ended;

all Persons involved with negotiations or the decision to negotiate . . . ").

V. CONCLUSION

Google respectfully asks this Court to compel Uniloc to provide full and complete

responses to Google's interrogatory regarding settlements and licensing agreements, and produce

related documents.

DATED: March 11, 2020

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael C. Hendershot, with permission by

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-6-

Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 8 of 13 PageID #: 7620

FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

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Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 9 of 13 PageID #: 7621

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Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 10 of 13 PageID #: 7622 FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

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Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 12 of 13 PageID #: 7624 FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

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2:18-cv-503 2:18-cv-504 Case 2:18-cv-00491-JRG-RSP Document 210 Filed 03/13/20 Page 13 of 13 PageID #: 7625

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CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

Pursuant to Local Rules CV-7(h) and (i), counsel for the parties met and conferred multiple

times in December 2019 and January 2020 in a good faith attempt to resolve the matters raised by

this motion. Since February 2020, counsel for the Plaintiff neither substantively responded to

counsel for the Defendant's requests to supplement its discovery responses related to this motion,

nor made itself available for a conference regarding the same, despite counsel for Defendant's

request to meet and confer. Thus, the parties have reached an impasse and leave an open issue for

the Court to resolve.

/s/ Michael E. Jones

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that all counsel of record who have consented to electronic service are

being served with a copy of this document via electronic mail on March 11, 2020.

I also hereby certify that all counsel of record who have consented to electronic service

are being served with a notice of filing of this document, under seal, pursuant to L.R. CV-5(a)(7)

on March 11, 2020.

/s/ Michael E. Jones

Michael E. Jones

CERTIFICATE OF AUTHORIZATION TO SEAL

I hereby certify that under Local Rule CV-5(a)(7), the foregoing document is filed under

seal pursuant to the Court's Protective Order entered in this matter.

/s/ Michael E. Jones

Michael E. Jones

-12-